



DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1945.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29164485>

DORE AND BRIDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1945.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:.

+ Mrs. C.N. LITTLE. (Resigned 31.10.45).

+ Miss. F.M. RUDHALL. (Resigned 23. 6.45).

+ Miss D.R. PLASCOTT. (Appointed 1.10.45).

(+ Temporary Appointments.)

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,  
Alton Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing  
Designated Officer:

DAVID J. FRANCIS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Telephone - Peterchurch 241

Urishay House,  
Peterchurch,  
Hereford.

.....

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the work of the Department for the year 1945, which is in accordance with Circular 28/46 of the Ministry of Health. The Report is somewhat more detailed than the recent Reports covering the period of the war, but contains no item inserted at the special request of the Council.

The figures included in the Report refer to the civilian population only, and I am pleased to inform you that the health of the inhabitants of the District appeared to be good, and the incidence of notifiable disease was low, with the exception of measles in the first half of the year.

I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Council has continued to give me in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

It will be appreciated that I have received assistance

in the preparation of this Report from my colleagues, who have also given me much assistance throughout the year. My thanks are therefore due to Mr. F. Craze, Clerk to the Council, Miss Sayce, Financial Officer to the Council and Mr. D.J. Francis, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for such assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

*William Hogg*

Medical Officer of Health.

March 1946.

#### SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

The District is almost entirely agricultural in character. There is much fine scenery especially in the west where the Black Mountains form an impressive boundary and a fertile field for the naturalist and the landscape painter. The area has preserved its original charm and beauty, but appears to be less well known than other parts of the County for the influx of summer visitors is not excessive.

Area (in acres) ... ..	86,043
Number of Inhabited Houses on 31.12.45. ... ..	2,143
Rateable Value ... ..	£23,452
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£105
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population ... ..	7,361

#### Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

<u>Live Birth</u> Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	17.9
<u>Stillbirths</u> Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still) ...	29.4
<u>Death</u> Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)..	12.2

#### Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
Heading No. 29 ...	Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Heading No. 30 ...	Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil

#### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	22.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... ..	16.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ..	83.3

#### Population:

The Registrar General's Estimate of the Resident population is 7,361 which shows little variation with the same figure for recent years. On this figure the estimated average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.4 . The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.02 and the estimated average number of persons per acre is 0.09 The natural increase of the population i.e. the excess of births over deaths for the year was 42.

Births:

A total of 132 live births ( 80 males and 52 females) were registered, giving a birth rate of 17.9 per thousand of the estimated resident population, compared with 16.1 for England and Wales. The number of illegitimate live births was 12 ( 5 males and 7 females) which is 9% of the total live births.

Stillbirths:

There were 4 still births registered, which gives a rate of 0.6 per thousand of the estimated resident population.

Deaths:

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred with the Rural District is 90, after deduction of deaths of non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District. This gives a crude death rate of 12.2.

A table of Causes of Death according to sex is given at the end of this Report.

Infant Mortality:

There were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 22.7. Two of these deaths related to legitimate infants and one to a child born out of wedlock.

Cancer Deaths:-

There were 15 deaths, 10 male and 5 female, attributed to all forms of cancer, giving a death rate of 2 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Diarrhoea under two years:-

There was one death (male child) due to diarrhoea, occurring in a child under two years of age.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:Laboratory Facilities:

Facilities for clinical and Sanitary laboratory investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at the County Offices, Hereford, under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones. This is of great value to the Department in the investigation of many matters affecting the Public Health.

The following table shows the number of examinations carried out by the Laboratory at the request of your Department:-

Specimens Examined:

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water - Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Water - Chemical Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Hospitals:

The needs of the population are met by the Hospitals in the City of Hereford. Accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Council at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital of the Hereford Rural District Council.

Ambulances:

The ambulances of the various organisations in the City of Hereford are used to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the District. Transport of cases of infectious disease is provided by the

Council with the Hereford Rural District Council's ambulance stationed at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital.

### SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

#### Water:

The water supplies of the District are provided by a series of small piped supplies and to a large extent by individual private shallow wells. The Local Authority has provided water schemes in the parishes of Longtown, Clifford and Dorstone. In addition, there are a few small private piped supplies, these utilise small springs. Many dwellings are provided with individual wells. There are also a few public wells.

The piped schemes in the parishes of Clifford, Dorstone and Longtown utilise springs arising upon high ground and feed the systems by gravitation. No purification plant is necessary at any of these schemes, each of which supplies a portion of the parish.

The following table gives the number of domestic premises supplied:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Number of Domestic Supplies</u>
Clifford .....	85
Dorstone .....	41
Longtown .....	57

The water of the Clifford scheme is somewhat peaty but none of the waters used for domestic supply within the area appear to have any appreciable effect upon metals, and water mains are usually of galvanised iron. There is one stand pipe in use on the Clifford scheme.

In addition to these piped schemes provided by the Local Authority there are a number of other small piped schemes owned by private owners. A list of the more important of these was given in the Annual Report for the year 1938

In addition there are many private shallow wells and a few public wells in use. During the war, a piped scheme in the parish of Kingstone was installed to supply the Royal Air Force Aerodrome at Madley, but this has been of little use to the inhabitants up to the present time.

The various supplies appear to be about adequate for the somewhat limited demand existing at the present time, except in the parishes of Clifford, Kingstone and Madley. Shortage is experienced in dry summers in these parishes, but the shortage at Clifford appears to admit of a remedy by additional works.

However, I believe that the present water consumption per head is probably quite low and in the expected development likely to take place, the demand is likely to increase. It seems therefore that an augmentation of water supplies will be necessary to cover parts of the area not at present adequately supplied and to provide for the anticipated increased demand in the future. The development of new supplies and the extension of existing piped supplies appears to offer most hope in this direction.

The Council is aware that a comprehensive piped water scheme for the whole of the area has certain advantages, however, as the District is of some size and is thinly populated the cost of such a scheme would be very high.

Owing to the large number of separate supplies, control of the quality of the water in use for potable purposes is difficult. An extension of piped supplies would simplify this problem to some extent.



Where domestic premises are connected to piped supplies the supply is usually carried into the dwelling.

#### Drainage and Sewerage:-

There are no public sewers in the District but the Air Ministry have provided private sewers and disposal works in connection with the Aerodrome at Madley.

During the year, difficulty was encountered in connection with the septic tank and drainage of the Council's dwellings at Ewyas Harold. A complete new scheme was found to be necessary in order to abate nuisance. This will be provided as soon as the Local Authority is able to commence the building operations required.

A somewhat similar difficulty occurred in connection with the dwellings at Wellbrookside, Peterchurch. Ultimately a new scheme will be necessary but this cannot be undertaken until electricity for pumping purposes is available. Electricity in rural areas is most useful as it may facilitate the provision of water and sewage disposal schemes.

During the year 21 existing drains were renewed and 14 new drains were constructed as a result of action by the Department.

In connection with industrial premises, 12 new water closets and a urinal were provided.

#### Rivers and Streams:-

These were kept under observation throughout the year, and maintained in a cleanly state as a result of informal action. Small streams give rise to most trouble in this respect for obvious reasons.

#### Closet Accommodation:-

During the year 22 new water closets were provided, and 18 privies were converted to pail closets. No conversions of privies to water closets were secured and no pail closets were converted to water closets.

#### Public Cleansing:-

In no part of the District is a system of collection of house refuse in operation. A certain amount of waste material is collected for salvage as a temporary measure.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Act 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations 1935 for the year ending 31st December 1945.

#### Inspections:

Slaughterhouses and Shops	...	...	...	100
Bakehouses	...	...	...	12
Schools	...	...	...	12
Water Supplies	...	...	...	136
Nuisances	...	...	...	32
Factories	...	...	...	38
Fruit and Hop-pickers Accommodation	...	...	...	61
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	47
Housing consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	351
Other Housing Inspections	...	...	...	29
Cow Sheds and Dairies	...	...	...	334
Petrol and Oil Stores	...	...	...	15

Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1,803
Salvage	...	...	...	...	-
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	106
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	17
Rats and Lice Survey	...	...	...	...	-
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	2

3,095

Notices Issued:

Informal	...	...	...	...	24
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	-
Statutory under Other Acts	...	...	...	...	-

24

Summary of Defects Remedied:

Drains Relaid	...	...	...	...	21
New Drains Laid	...	...	...	...	14
Drains Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Sinks and Urinals Rectified	...	...	...	...	2
New Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	22
Water Closets Repaired Etc.	...	...	...	...	9
Privies Converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	11
Privies Converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	-
Privies Converted to Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	7
New Pail Closets provided	...	...	...	...	-
Pail Closets to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	-
Pail Closets Repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	...	...	...	...	-
Wells Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Rooms Disinfected re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	66
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	...	-
Public Vehicles Disinfected	...	...	...	...	-
Dwelling Houses Cleansed	...	...	...	...	2

184

School Closures:

There were no school closures during the year for health reasons.

SECTION D. - HOUSING:

Progress in dealing with housing matters was necessarily limited by the difficulties of the change from war to peace. Nevertheless, the Council was able to adopt a first year programme of post war house construction and to approve of the plans and to acquire sites. In addition, preliminary progress was made in connection with the second year programme.

The first year programme eventually proposed the erection of 18 dwelling houses, 2 in each of the parishes of Kingstone, Kilpeck, 4 in each of the parishes of Orcop and Peterchurch and 6 in the parish of Ewyas Harold.

The post war dwellings are a distinct advance upon dwellings of a similar type erected between the two wars. They provide additional comfort and amenities, and have the advantage of modern construction and freedom from the defects which are frequent in cottages in rural areas. Unfortunately the cost of the construction of these dwellings is likely to be high.

During the year 1945, no new dwelling houses were erected. Four Caravan sites have been brought into use and one dwelling house divided into two separate dwellings.



Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:

1. (a) Total number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (Under Public Health Or Housing Acts) ... 357

- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 380

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:

Number of Defective Dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers . 18

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice.

- (a) By Owners ... 14

- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. -

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:Milk Supply:

There were 375 premises in the District registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

There are no premises Registered with the Local Authority in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream or preserved foods.

Food Inspected and Condemned:

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	294 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	260 Tins.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	34 Tins.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Oranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 cwt.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	29 lbs.
Plums	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 tons.
Oat Meal	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000 lbs.

No samples of any food were submitted to the Laboratory for examination, and no cases of food poisoning were notified to the Department at any time during the year.

The number of separate premises registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, is fairly large, and as these are scattered throughout the District the amount of supervision is limited by the resources of the Department. Nevertheless, a certain amount of improvement is secured each year.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:Notifiable Disease:-

The figures quoted below refer to civilians only.

The incidence of notifiable disease showed an increase upon the same figure for the previous year. Altogether, there were 78 notifications received compared with 48 for the year 1944. The most prevalent infection was measles, 51 notifications being received within

the first half of the year. If this number is deducted from the total, other notifiable disease gave rise to only 27 notifications.

After measles, scarlet fever was the most prevalent infection accounting for 12 notifications. The remaining notifications were due to diphtheria 1, whooping cough 7, and acute pneumonia 7.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease each quarter according to sex:-

Notifiable Disease According to Sex.										
	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1st. Qrt.	-	1	-	-	1	3	17	12	4	2
2nd. Qrt.	1	2	-	-	-	1	12	9	-	-
3rd. Qrt.	-	7	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
4th. Qrt.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Year	2	10	-	1	2	5	30	21	5	2

It will be seen that measles was most frequent in the first quarter and it died out towards the end of the second quarter. More males were affected than females.

Scarlet fever commenced in the first quarter and increased very slowly until it reached a maximum of 7 cases in the third quarter when it diminished almost entirely quite suddenly. Females were affected in 10 instances. Four cases occurred in the children of one household, and two cases in another household. No connection was established between cases in different houses.

The case of diphtheria occurred in a child who travelled into the District. In my opinion, the infection had been contracted in another area as the patient was suffering from symptoms upon arrival. So far as could be ascertained, the child had not previously been immunised. There was no spread of infection.

The following table shows the number of patients suffering from notifiable infectious disease treated in hospital:-

Disease	Infectious Disease Treated in Hospital		
	Notifications.	Treated in Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	12	5	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Measles	51	-	-
Whooping Cough	7	-	-
Pneumonia	7	-	2
All Diseases	78	6	2

The number of cases of infectious disease treated on behalf of the Council at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital has in recent years tended to fall. This is in part due to the lower incidence of diphtheria, for few cases of this disease can be nursed in the home with safety. Another factor is the mildness of the prevailing scarlet fever.

The mortality from infectious disease was insignificant, only 2 persons (1 male and 1 female) died from acute pneumonia.

Notifiable Disease According to Age during Year 1945.

Disease	Under												Totals
	1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	5	4	1	1	-	-	-	12
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	1	2	1	5	2	17	8	4	9	2	-	-	51
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	2	7
Totals	2	3	1	8	4	26	14	5	10	2	1	2	78

The efficiency of notification of infectious disease is good, and there is good co-operation between the Medical Practitioners and the Department.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

The Council's scheme for the immunisation of children under 15 years of age free of charge continued to function quite well. Almost all the immunisation is carried out by the Medical Practitioners in the District and on behalf of the Local Authority. I have to acknowledge the excellent work which the doctor's have carried out. Not only do the doctor s carry out the injections, but frequently they are able to advise parents of the value of the treatment and secure consent which would other wise not be obtained.

The following table shows the number of children who have completed a course of diphtheria prophylactic during the year according to age group.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation during Year 1945.

Age at 31.12.45	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total
i.e. Born in year-	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1936-40	1931-35	under 15
Number Immunised	4	30	19	8	9	23	1	94
Estimated mid-year population 1945				678		1280		1958

At the end of the year it was estimated that, of the child population under 15 years of age, 56% had received a complete course of Diphtheria prophylactic. I do not regard this percentage figure as being satisfactory. It is possible that the actual figure of 56% is an understatement of the facts, for a number of children may have received complete treatment for whom the Department has no record. If a figure of 4% is added to allow for this, the total then becomes 60%, so that 40% of the susceptible population is still subject to the grave risk of diphtheria. I think it is unlikely that more than 90% of the children will receive treatment and until this is achieved I cannot regard the necessary degree of protection as being satisfactory.

Scabies:-

Two cases of scabies were notified to the Department during the year. It is probable that this represented only a fraction of the true incidence. One difficulty which hampers prevention is of course the inadequacy of water supplies and absence of bathrooms in dwellings.

Tuberculosis:-

At the end of 1944 there were 33 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 22 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary. During the year 1945 18 cases were added to the Register, 15 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary, of these, 11 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary were with respect to new cases. During the year 11 cases were removed from the Register, 9 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary, and on the 31st December 1945, 40 cases remained on the Register, 28 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary.

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1945.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5+	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
15+	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25+	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35+	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	5	6	2	1	1	2	1	1

Causes of Death during 1945.

No.	Cause.	M.	F.	Total.
6.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	2
7.	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	3
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	2	-	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	7	5	12
17.	Diabetes	1	1	2
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2	3	5
19.	Heart Disease	11	16	27
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	1	4
21.	Bronchitis	1	1	2
22.	Pneumonia	2	-	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	1	1
25.	Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	1	-	1
26.	Appendicitis	-	1	1
27.	Other digestive Diseases	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis	1	2	3
30.	Premature Birth	1	1	2
33.	Suicide	1	-	1
34.	Road Traffic Accident	1	-	1
35.	Violent Causes	3	1	4
36.	All Other Causes	6	7	13
All Causes		47	43	90



